

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12040 290114Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11
OES-09 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05
/159 W

-----010202 291911Z /46

R 281717Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8624
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12040

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, RH. UK
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS REGARDING OIL SALES TO RHODESIA

REF: STATE 184765 (NOTAL)

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE FCO THAT THE BINGHAM
REPORT ON OIL SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS IN RHODESIA
WILL GO TO DR. OWEN IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. WHILE
NOSSITER'S ARTICLE REFLECTS A SPATE OF RUMORS IN
LONDON, AND ALSO DRAWS ON STORIES RECENTLY PUBLISHED
IN LISBON, THE BINGHAM INQUIRY HAS BEEN CLOSELY HELD
AND THE POSSIBILITY OF "SCANDAL" IS SPECULATIVE.

2. WHEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY RECEIVES BINGHAM'S
REPORT HE WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT,
BUT THE DECISION WHETHER TO PUBLISH THE REPORT WILL BE
SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE FCO LEGAL OFFICE. PUBLICA-
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TION COULD PREJUDICE TWO ONGOING LEGAL SUITS (LONRHO
AND THE ZAMBIA GOVERNMENT) AND, POSSIBLY, WHATEVER
LEGAL ACTIONS MAY RESULT FROM BINGHAM'S FINDINGS.
AT THE SAME TIME, THE FCO RECOGNIZES THAT FAILURE TO
PUBLISH WOULD LEAVE HMG OPEN TO ACCUSATIONS OF COVER-
UP AND COLLUSION OR OF SUPPRESSING BAD NEWS IN A PRE-
ELECTORAL PERIOD.

3. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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